

To: Mears, Mary[Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; Enck, Judith[Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
From: Matthews, Joan
Sent: Wed 3/2/2016 10:10:06 PM
Subject: RE: Answers to your questions

Yes, Doug P says NYSDOH.

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Matthews, Joan <Matthews.Joan@epa.gov>; Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Answers to your questions

I don't know where we got the results. From the State DOH?

Mary Mears

Deputy Director Public Affairs and Chief Public Outreach Branch

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From: Dan Turkel [<mailto:dturkel@businessinsider.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:50 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Answers to your questions

Thank you.

- 1) May I quote from the above, and if so, how would you like it attributed.
- 2) From what source did the EPA obtain the June samples last fall?

Best,

Dan Turkel

On Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 4:46 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Dan,

In December 2014, Saint-Gobain sent a letter to EPA's Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Confidential Business Information Center informing EPA that reported levels in two of Hoosick Falls' public wells were below the EPA's provisional health advisory level of 400 parts per trillion and the company's report indicated that the third well, which did have PFOA levels above EPA's provisional advisory level, had been taken out of service. In addition, Region 2 was contacted in December 2014 by a resident about the results. The EPA's drinking water experts reached out to New York State regulators and in the course of a few days were able to ascertain that the state and county health agencies were working with the village and that the one well with levels of PFOA above the EPA provisional advisory level of 400 parts per trillion was reportedly taken off line.

Our direct involvement developed last fall and at that time the EPA was given data from samples taken in June from wells with levels over our provisional health advisory level. At that time, we took action and have been working with the state ever since. The state and county agencies have the lead in working with the Village on its water supply system. The Village has installed and experts will test a temporary granular activated carbon treatment system that should be effective in removing PFOA from the water. A permanent treatment system is being designed as well. In addition, New York has announced that it will test private wells and install "Point of Entry" treatment systems (known as POETs) in every residence in the Town of Hoosick, upon request. New York also committed to looking for an alternative drinking water source for Hoosick Falls for the long term.

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From: Dan Turkel [mailto:dturkel@businessinsider.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:31 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Cc: Martin, John <Martin.JohnJ@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Answers to your questions

The question I am having the greatest trouble understanding is regarding the time (November 2015) when the EPA first expressed to Borge the recommendation that residents not drink from the HF public water supply. The village learned in June 2015 that there were multiple samples tested which showed PFOA at levels above 600 PPT and made that information available to the NYDOH. Was that not shared with the EPA? Or, if it was, why did the recommendation—which is based on the fact of those levels—not expressed to the mayor until November?

-Dan

On Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 3:15 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

I am running into a meeting, so might be quickest to email.

Mary Mears

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From: Dan Turkel [mailto:dturkel@businessinsider.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:08 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Cc: Martin, John <Martin.JohnJ@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Answers to your questions

Thank you for your response Ms. Mears,

There are still some aspects that are unclear to me, however. Are you available to speak on the phone about this? (If not, or if you would prefer, I can email you my followup questions.)

Best,

-Dan

On Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 2:52 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Dan,

Here are the answers to your questions on Hoosick Falls.

1. Is the November 25th, 2015 letter to Mayor Borge the first instance where the EPA recommended alternative drinking water sources be sought?

You should contact the state about the announcement related to the alternate water supply. Here is their press release.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces->

planning-alternate-water-supply-village-hoosick-falls

Because PFOA had been detected in the public water supply in Hoosick Falls at more than 600 ppt, EPA recommended that until a New York State Department of Health-approved treatment system is in place at the public water supply and confirmed to be consistently removing PFOA to acceptable levels, the public should not drink water from the Hoosick Falls public water supply or use it for cooking.

That recommendation was made in the EPA's letter to Mayor Borge, which can be found here

<http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/EPA-PFOA-letter-112515.pdf>

2. The language in the PFOA provisional health advisory is confusing to me. The advisory reads: "Provisional Health Advisory values are developed to provide information in response to an urgent or rapidly developing situation. They reflect reasonable, health-based hazard concentrations above which action should be taken to reduce exposure to unregulated contaminants in drinking water." Is that intended to mean that the level of 400 parts per trillion is a threshold for whether or not alternative water sources should be sought?

EPA is using the best science to develop a lifetime health advisory level for PFOA, which the agency expects to release in spring 2016. Lifetime health advisories serve as guidance and are benchmarks for determining if concentrations of chemicals in tap water from public utilities are safe for public consumption. Health advisories provide federal, state, local and tribal governments with non-regulatory guidance to make decisions in cases when a chemical is not federally regulated. When issued, the lifetime health advisory for PFOA will supersede the provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion for PFOA issued in 2009.

3. After the EPA's November 25th letter to Borge, the village issued yet another letter and the NYS DOH released a fact sheet, neither of which made strong recommendations to avoid drinking or cooking with the public

water. Shortly thereafter, the EPA released its own strongly worded recommendation not to drink the water. Was the EPA's public recommendation issued in response to (real or perceived) delays in making the same recommendation by state and local officials?

In December 2015, EPA recommended that people in the Town of Hoosick and the Village of Hoosick Falls who have private wells at which PFOA has been found to be present at a level greater than 100 parts per trillion not use that water for drinking or cooking, and instead use bottled water. And that those with private wells that have not yet been tested for the presence of PFOA ask the New York State Department of Health to test their well and, in the meantime, use bottled water.

EPA's advice was a result of specific circumstances that existed in that community, including the fact that: 1) free bottled water was already being made available to everyone in the community; and 2) the state health department had already offered to test, for PFOA, the private well of everyone in the Town who requested such testing. EPA's recommendation was also based on site specific information as well as information in the most recent EPA report on PFOA toxicity which underwent external peer review in August, 2014.

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